

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 1305 to close a loophole that allows hundreds of millions of home-generated sharps waste (needles, lancets, etc.) to be disposed in solid waste and recycling containers. Ensuring appropriate disposal of sharps waste is necessary to protect workers and the general public from exposure to contagious diseases and avoidable health and safety risks.

In order to achieve the goals of this bill, California needs adequate access to disposal sites and effective public education efforts to ensure that Californians suffering from diabetes, arthritis, multiple sclerosis and other medical conditions which require the use of needles are not overly burdened by the new requirements of this bill. Therefore, I am directing the Integrated Waste Management Board and the Department of Health Services to work with the Legislature, local governments and other stakeholders to ensure there are sufficient disposal options for impacted persons to dispose of home-generated sharps and that education and out-reach efforts be conducted.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger